

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jordan, US Patent Publication No. 2002/0073323, filed July 14, 2001 and claiming priority to Provisional Application No. 60/218,333, filed July 14, 2000 ("Jordan.") Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As the enclosed Declaration of Peter V. Radatti Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, inventor on the present application, makes clear, the inventions of claims 1-12 were conceived in this country or in a NAFTA or WTO member country at least as early as December 15, 1999, and reduced to practice upon the exercise of due diligence at least as early as the filing date of the present application.

Jordan comes after the conception of the present application, and thus is not prior art to the present application. Thus, Applicant submits, claims 1-4 and 6 are allowable and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection to those claims.

Claims 5, 7-12 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(1) as being unpatentable over Jordan as applied to claim 1 and 4, and further in view of Shieh, et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,278,901) filed April 30, 1992 (Shieh.") Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

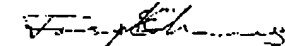
Again, Mr. Radatti's declaration takes Jordan away from prior art consideration. Without the Jordan reference, Applicant submits, there is no teaching, suggestion nor disclosure of modifying Shieh as the Examiner suggests. Accordingly, Applicant

submits, claims 5 and 7-12 are allowable and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection to those claims.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, for the reasons given above, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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